

Michigan Women

A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission

Summer 2004



◆ GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR LINDA V. PARKER ◆
◆ CHAIR EMMA BELL ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY KARANDJEFF ◆

STATUS OF WOMEN'S HEALTH IN MICHIGAN

The status of Michigan women's health is "unsatisfactory," ranking 32nd among the states, according to the report card issued by the National Women's Law Center, *Making the Grade on Women's Health: A National and State-by-State Report Card 2004*, available at www.nwlc.org.

Based on 34 status indicators, each state was given a total grade and ranking. Of the 5,098,844 Michigan women who are 18 and older:

- 13.5 percent had no health insurance
- 23.4 percent smoked
- 25.6 percent were obese
- 26.6 percent had no leisure-time physical activity
- 78.3 percent of over-40 women had mammograms within the past two years

85.6 percent had access to first trimester prenatal care

87.6 percent had pap smears within the past three years

On April 8, 2004, Michigan's Director of Community Health, Janet Olszewski, and Michigan Surgeon General, Kimberlydawn Wisdom, M.D., released the Healthy Michigan 2010 *Health Status Report*. The report focuses on 10 areas: Chronic Disease, Lifestyles, Tobacco, Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Maternal and Child Health, Immunizations, Injuries and Violence, Healthy Environments, and Infectious and Emerging Diseases. A copy of the report is available at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

Some report highlights of special interest to women include:

- Michigan is making strides in preventing chronic
- (continued on page 2)

COMMISSIONERS:

- Emma Bell, Chair - Detroit • Gloria Woods, Vice Chair - Bay City • Judi Clark - Rockwood • Kaye Grubba - Owosso
- Patricia Hardy - Bloomfield Hills • Brenda Jones Quick - Traverse City • Maria Ladas Hoopes - North Muskegon
- Anne Norlander - Battle Creek • Denise Radtke - Plymouth • Judy Rosenberg - Birmingham • Judi Schwalbach - Escanaba
- Sally Shaheen Joseph - Flint • Cheryl Sugerman - Ann Arbor • Joyce Watts - Allegan

EX OFFICIO:

- Deanna Hopkins - Civil Service • Norene Lind - Labor & Economic Growth • Jocelyn Vanda - Family Independence Agency
- Roberta Stanley - Education

LIAISONS:

- Sophie Baker - Civil Rights • Maxine Berman - Governor's Office • Linda Burnham - Natural Resources • Patty Cantu - Labor & Economic Growth
- Alethia Carr - Community Health • Karen Carroll - Services for the Aging • Beth Emmitt - State • Cynthia Faulhaber - Treasury
- Sgt. Michele Hernandez - State Police • Bridget Medina - Management & Budget • Catherine Roberson - Economic Development Corporation
- Patricia Spitzley - Environmental Quality • Heidi Washington - Corrections • Christine White - Agriculture

STAFF:

- Judy Karandjeff, Executive Director • Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist • Florine Davis - Secretary
- Emily Stoddard, Student Assistant • Angali Sunay Vats, Student Assistant

Women's Health in Michigan

continued from page 1

diseases, such as heart disease and cancer, the leading causes of death for both men and women. However, significant racial disparities exist. Black women have lower breast cancer screening rates and higher breast cancer mortality rates than white women.

- Michigan's infant mortality rate (IMR), eight deaths for every 1,000 live births, is higher than the U.S. rate and reflects a large racial disparity. The black IMR was 16.9/1000, the white IMR was 6.1/1000, and the IMR for other races was 5.3/1000.

"Few things affect the quality of our life and the quality of our work more than our good health."

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, 2004 State of State Address

- In 2000, 40 percent of all live births in Michigan were the result of an unintended pregnancy.
- Approximately 412,000 Michigan adults had a serious mental illness in 2002.
- The number of Michigan citizens with alcohol dependency and abuse was estimated at over 550,000 in 2000. The number of Michigan citizens with illicit drug dependency and abuse was estimated at 418,000.
- There were 5,438 rape offenses reported to the Michigan State Police

in 2002. Assuming only one in six rapes are reported, it is estimated that one in seven women in Michigan has experienced at least one forcible rape during her lifetime.

- Every other day in Michigan a worker dies from an injury sustained at work.
- Unintentional injuries (motor vehicle crashes, falls and poisoning) were the fifth leading cause of death for all ages combined in Michigan in 2001.
- Due to increased use of drug therapies, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Michigan has steadily increased and the number of deaths has decreased.
- Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of morbidity and mortality in the U.S. Nearly 15,000 Michigan residents will die this year as the result of tobacco use.
- Michigan has made substantial progress in meeting the Healthy People 2010 goal of a 90 percent vaccination level for each of the routinely recommended vaccines.
- Michigan has "room for improvement" in healthy lifestyles, such as physical activity, healthy weight, and good nutrition. In 2002, approximately 62 percent of Michigan adults were either overweight or obese.

Michigan Mental Health Commission

Governor Granholm issued Executive Order No. 2003-24, in December 2003, to establish the Michigan Mental Health Commission as an advisory body within the Office of the Governor. The Commission, serving at the pleasure of the Governor, has 29 public members as well as ex officio members from the Department of Community Health (MDCH), the Family Independence Agency and the Department of Corrections.

The Commission's charge includes (1) recommending options to improve the organization, delivery, quality and effectiveness of publicly-supported mental health services, (2) identifying methods designed to simplify access to care, promote effective services and support practices, improve care outcomes, and enhance customer and family satisfaction, and (3) providing recommendations on the best strategies to enhance public awareness and understanding of mental illness.

If you wish to submit comments, send written comments to Public Sector Consultants and request distribution to all commission members. The mailing address is:

Michigan Mental Health Commission,
c/o Public Sector Consultants
600 W. St. Joseph St., Ste. 10, Lansing, MI 48933

You may also go to the MDCH web site and submit comments by email at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

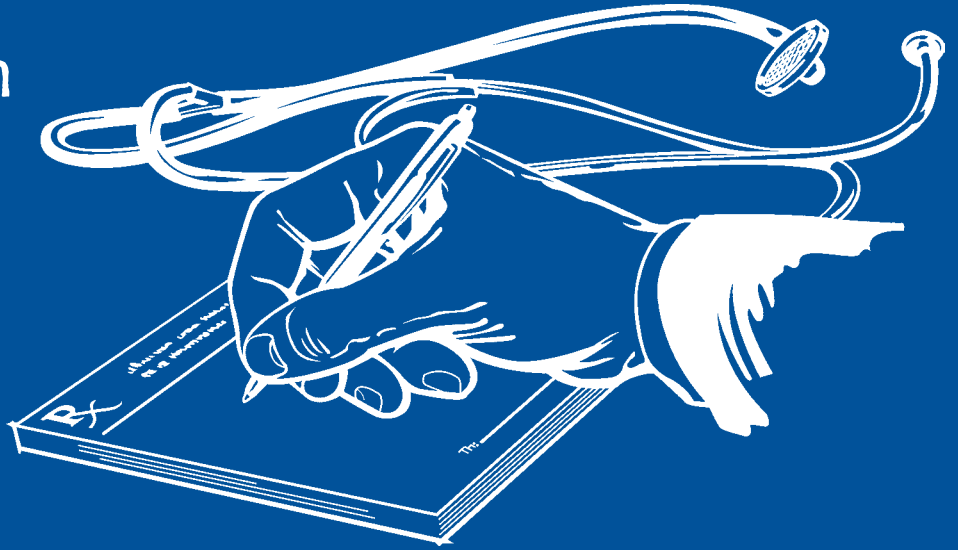
The Commission will complete its work and issue a final report and recommendations to the Governor by September 30, 2004.

Emergency Contraception Pills

On May 6, 2004, the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rejected a plan to allow emergency contraception pills to be sold without a prescription. The FDA's advisory committee of experts recommended approval of the drugs without prescriptions in December, 2003.

Emergency contraception is a two-pill regimen to be taken within 24 to 72 hours after unprotected sex and is currently available with a prescription. The pills are a high dosage of birth control pills and can prevent pregnancy. Emergency contraception has been available for more than 25 years and could help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies.

Prescription For A Healthier Michigan



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, Michigan Surgeon General unveiled the Michigan Surgeon General's Prescription for a Healthier Michigan on May 4, 2004. This prescription is a plan designed to improve the long-term health of Michigan's citizens by focusing state health efforts on strategies to prevent disease and other chronic health conditions. Governor Granholm said that over the last decade, Michigan has experienced unnecessary increases in infectious and chronic diseases, driven largely by unhealthy lifestyles. In 2002, the consequences of sedentary lifestyles cost Michigan nearly \$8.9 billion in medical care costs, lost productivity and workers compensation. In 2003, obesity-related medical costs in Michigan totaled an estimated \$2.9 billion.

The **four strategic priorities** for addressing Michigan's health burden are:

Promoting Health Lifestyles

- arresting adult and pediatric obesity
- reducing tobacco use, especially among youth

Protecting Families

- reducing unintended pregnancies
- reducing infant mortality
- eliminating childhood lead poisoning

Protecting Communities

- preventing reducing injuries and violence
- preventing and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- preventing and reducing emerging infectious diseases
- creating a health infrastructure prepared for chemical and biological terrorism

Eliminating Health Disparities

- reducing racial and ethnic health disparities

In the Michigan Surgeon General's Prescription for a Healthier Michigan, Dr. Wisdom offers strategies addressed to Michigan's educational community, businesses, healthcare providers, faith-based communities and the general community. Among the highlights:

- Business and industries should provide health care benefits that support prevention activities, encourage and establish incentives to use such benefits, and develop health-based partnerships with community-based organizations;
- K-12 schools should adopt policies on healthy foods and beverages, implement 24 - 7 tobacco-free policies, and integrate school health education and physical education into school curricula;
- Healthcare providers should provide prevention services for all patients, educate and support patients in maintaining health and self-management of

"The key to protecting families in Michigan is to focus on the health of women, infants and children."

Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom

diseases, identify populations in order to reduce health disparities, and play a substantial role in community efforts to advance and promote healthy lifestyles

- Colleges and universities should prepare health professionals to respond to the needs and challenges of the 21st Century through professional, comprehensive training programs, and recruit and retain diverse health professional workforces.
- Michigan communities should establish a clear health focus within the community.

A complete copy of the Prescription can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdch.

THE MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES



On April 25, over 5,000 Michigan men and women gathered in Washington DC with over one million others to:

- ensure that all women have the right to choose to have or not to have children, with reproductive health options that are safe, affordable and accessible.
- ensure the availability of contraceptive services, family planning, and abortion services to all women regardless of geographic location or income.
- address disturbing statistics that indicate widespread disparate treatment options offered to women due to race, income, and age, to help women protect their lives from breast cancer, over-use of hormone replacement therapies, medical abuses, and other issues that threaten women's health.
- uphold the fundamental right of women to control their lives through safe and legal abortion.
- demand access to a range of safe and affordable family planning options, including the right to accurate and effective sex education and safe and effective contraceptive development and testing
- receive full disclosure of information about new reproductive technologies and the race, class, and gender implications of such technologies, including our opposition to bio-engineering and genome research that particularly place low-income women and women of color at risk.

Over 400 groups participated in the event including the YWCA of the USA, SIERRA Club, Presbyterian Church, NAACP, League of Women Voters, Coalition for Labor Union Women, National Council of Jewish Women, National Organization for Women, American Association of University Women, Planned Parenthood, and NARAL Pro-Choice America.

THANK YOU, Millie!

"You never win freedom permanently. You have to win it time after time... whether it's union rights, civil rights, or equality for women. We have to keep at it and at it."
Millie Jeffrey

Millie McWilliams Jeffrey, "Millie", social justice activist, retired UAW Director of the Consumer Affairs Department, and a Governor Emerita of Wayne State University, died March 24, 2004. She was born in Alton, Iowa on December 29, 1910.

For nine decades, Millie changed our world by fighting for equality and opportunity. Millie was a leader on women's issues, as the director of the UAW Women's Bureau she organized the first UAW women's conference in response to the massive postwar layoffs of women production workers replaced by returning

veterans. During the 50's and 60's, Millie was a pioneer in the civil rights movement. She was a founding member and chair of the National Women's Political Caucus, and led efforts to nominate Geraldine Ferraro as Walter Mondale's running mate and vice presidential candidate. Millie was inducted in to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and an original member of the Michigan Women's Foundation. She received the 2000 Medal of Freedom recipient, the highest U.S. civilian honor, from President Clinton.

Millie was an inspiration for many women in Michigan politics, including Governor Jennifer Granholm, U.S Senator Debbie Stabenow, and former State Representative Maxine Berman. For more information about Millie, see www.milliejeffrey.org.

Thank you, Millie, for your guidance, leadership, and friendship. We will miss you!

First Woman DNR Director

Rebecca (Becky) Humphries was hired by the seven-member Michigan Natural Resources Commission as the first female director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on April 19, 2004. Ms. Humphries joined the department as a wildlife biologist in 1978 and has run the wildlife division since 1998. Congratulations!

New Data On Pay Equity*

According to the newly released study conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, www.iwpr.org, Michigan and Alabama tied for the 49th largest "wage gap."

Nationally, women's median annual earnings in 2002 for full-time, year-round employed women were \$30,100, only 76.2 percent of what men earn. Women in Michigan make 66.7 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn - the second biggest gap in the country. The median annual earning for full-time, year round workers in Michigan was \$30,900 for women and \$46,400 for men.

In 2002, nationally, the proportion of women aged 16 and over in poverty was 12.1 percent, and 8.7 percent for men. Improvements can be achieved by:

- Federal, state, and local governments strengthening their enforcement of equal opportunity law.
- Businesses regularly evaluating their wage and promotion practices to ensure that men and women of all races and ethnicities are fairly compensated for their work.
- Employers actively recruiting women into predominantly male jobs
- Federal, state and local governments improving educational and job training opportunities for women
- Everyone encouraging educational attainment for all women.

**Correction - In the MWC spring newsletter, we said Michigan ranked 58th - we meant 48th - at that time.*

MI Women's Commission Holds Public Hearings

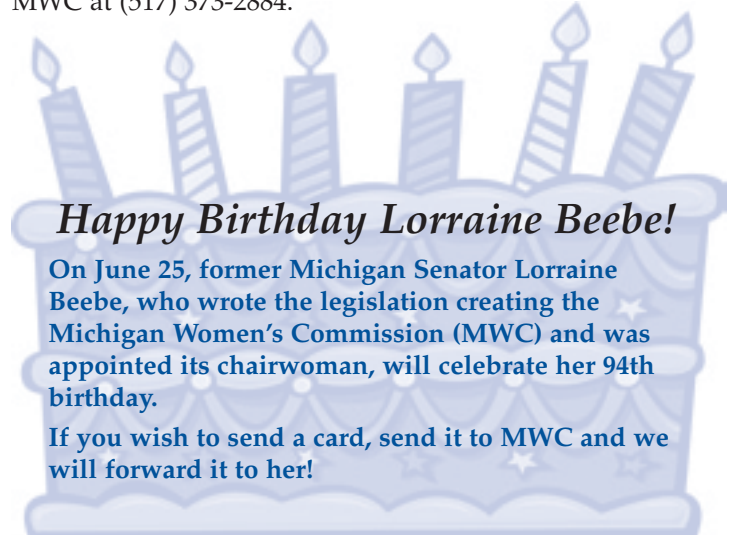
The Michigan Women's Commission will hold three public hearings in order to learn about what issues are confronting Michigan women. Everyone is invited to speak or submit written materials at the hearings.

The first public hearing will be Wednesday, June 9, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Wayne County Community College, 1001 W. Fort St, Detroit.

The second public hearing will be Wednesday, September 8, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Eberhard Center at Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids.

The third public hearing will be Wednesday, December 8, from 3 to 7 p.m. at 110 West Michigan, 7th floor, Lansing.

For additional information about the hearings, contact MWC at (517) 373-2884.



Health Insurance Coverage Missing

Over one million nonelderly people, 12.4 percent of Michigan's population, have no health insurance, according to the *Health Insurance Coverage in America 2002 Data Update* prepared by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Of these uninsured, approximately 200,000 are children. Over 6 million people, 70.9 percent of Michigan's nonelderly population, are insured through their employer. That percentage is higher than the national average of 64.0 percent. Over one million (11.5 percent) of Michigan's nonelderly population are covered by Medicaid.

Nationally, the number of uninsured increased by nearly 10 percent since 2000, primarily because of the economic downturn in 2001. One third of the nonelderly population have family incomes less than 200 percent of the poverty level, making it extremely difficult to purchase health

insurance. Unfortunately, low and middle-income families experienced the largest decreases in employer-based coverage.

The uninsured:

- receive less preventive care,
- are diagnosed at more advanced disease states, and
- once diagnosed, tend to receive less therapeutic care and have higher mortality rates.

In a study prepared for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured in May 2004, providing full-year coverage to all 44 million uninsured people in the United States would increase medical spending by \$48 billion. (Sources: www.kff.org)

Michigan Women's Commission
110 West Michigan, Suite 800
Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 373-2884 fax: (517) 335-1649
www.michigan.gov/mdcr

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansing, Michigan
Permit No. 1200

"The economic and social costs associated with an unhealthy population have a dramatic impact on Michigan's ability to compete and succeed in the 21st century economy."

– Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

Mailing List Update

If your name or address needs to be changed on our newsletter mailing label, or if you receive duplicates, please mail or fax the correct information (along with your current label) to the address or fax number listed below. You can also email us at [MDCR-WomensComm@michigan.gov](mailto:WomensComm@michigan.gov).

CALENDAR

June 9 – Michigan Women's Commission Public Hearing, 3 pm. to 7:00 p.m. Wayne County Community College, Detroit, Downtown Campus

June 19 – Juneteenth Day – African American Emancipation Day, celebrating the ending of slavery. For more information go to Juneteenth.com

June 27 – National HIV Testing Day

August 3 – Michigan 2004 Primary Election. Remember to vote!

August 5 - 8 – 2004 Michigan Summer School For Women Workers. For more information go to www.ilir.umich.edu/

September – Cholesterol Education Month

September 8 – Michigan Women's Commission Public Hearing, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids, MI

September 29 – Third Annual National Women's Health & Fitness Day

October – the Detroit Historical Museum opens a nationally touring exhibit "Enterprising Women." Go to detroithistorical.org for more information.